

BUSINESS CONDITIONS



SEVENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT

JANUARY 31, 1922

PRODUCTION AND TRADE SHOW NO STRIKING DEPARTURES FROM THE conditions prevailing at the time of the last report. At this season there usually occurs a period of slackening in various lines of manufacture and this has been true during the past month. Such recession as there has been does not, however, go beyond the proportions to be expected at this time of the year. The Federal Reserve Board's price index for December shows a reduction of only two points, as compared with a month earlier, while the United States Bureau of Labor statistics show no change in its index.

On the productive side interest has been largely centered about the iron and steel trade. The activity in that branch of business has been slightly on the increase, the end of the year showing a slowing down due to the usual inventory period, while during the first part of January, better inquiry, particularly from railroads, has tended to increase the volume of orders on hand as well as the activity of the plants. Demand for nonferrous metals continues quiet.

In cotton and woolen textiles no material change has taken place but in other manufacturing lines there has been, if anything, a moderate tendency toward improvement. Little change in crop conditions can be expected during the winter season. Prices of staple farm products have, on the whole, about held their own with fair export demand. Minor agricultural crops especially citrus fruits and sugar cane have shown satisfactory yields.

A slight increase in unemployment is attributable largely to seasonal recession and indicates no important changes in the general demand for labor. Building operations have been unusually well maintained, especially for this season of the year, being about double those reported for the corresponding month a year ago.

Wholesale trade lines have shown great variation. Sharp declines have occurred in dry goods and boots and shoes, while hardware sales, although not declining in so marked a degree, have fallen off substantially. Groceries also show a lessened volume of demand. In the Southern states decline in wholesale lines has been especially pronounced in dry goods and shoes. The figures, however, make a distinctly favorable showing as compared with a year ago. In retail trade, buying demand in the manufacturing districts of the East and North still shows improvement, while demand in the agricultural regions of the West and South indicates sharp decrease as compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

CREDIT CONDITIONS IN MIDDLE WEST

Other than for a marked decline in borrowings at the Federal Reserve Bank, and a tendency toward lower money rates, credit conditions in the Seventh Federal Reserve District did not change materially during December and the first part of January. The usual lull over the year-end was apparent, with business generally awaiting financial statements to determine how industrial and commercial houses have weathered the year of adjustment. Bankers, while carefully scrutinizing statements of corporations and business men covering the year's operations, of necessity are endeavoring to give due consideration to the unprecedented difficulties encountered in the last two years. These statements or reports generally indicate that satisfactory progress is being made in most lines, with inventory readjustments to conform to price changes which have taken place.

In the agricultural districts some change for the better has appeared since the middle of December but improvement is slower than ordinarily at this time. Some partial payments of farmers' obligations at the banks are reported. Reductions in freight rates on farm products which went into effect the first part of the year do not appear to have been reflected in full in prices paid to the farmers.

A more hopeful attitude, generally speaking, appeared at the beginning of the year although this is not based in all cases on actual conditions as reflected in statistics.

Condition of the money market in the larger cities indicates improvement during December in the gradual retirement of country bank loans. This is probably more of a reflection of operations of the War Finance Corporation than of actual liquidation. Advances approved by this Corporation for agricultural and live stock purposes up to January 18, aggregated \$151,166,076 of which \$24,258,368 was to the five states lying wholly or largely within this Federal Reserve District. Advances have been approved amounting to \$3,377,868, in Illinois; \$434,000, in Indiana; \$17,974,500, in Iowa; and \$2,472,000, in Wisconsin.

The demand for money in some parts of the district is reported heavy, and in others not excessive. There are many demands for renewals. Difficulty in collections continues. Trade statistics reported to this bank show a large increase in December retail sales over November, and a decrease of about 7 per cent from December, 1920. Considering price changes this would indicate a larger volume of business than for the holiday month a year ago.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK STATISTICS

Marked changes are shown in the statements of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, resulting from operations during the period from December 21 to January 18. Bills discounted for member banks decreased approximately fifty-two millions, 26.3 per cent; of this reduction more than six millions was in bills secured by Government obligations. Increases of almost eleven millions in bills bought in the open market and fourteen millions in holdings of United States securities are shown

for the period. Total reserves decreased approximately twenty-two millions; Federal Reserve notes, thirty-three millions; and total deposits, ten millions, including a decrease of five millions in Government deposits. The ratio of total reserves to deposit and Federal Reserve note liabilities combined increased from 71.4 per cent to 72.8 per cent during the period.

Detailed comparisons of principal asset and liability items with the preceding month and year follow:

	AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS		
	JAN. 18, 1922	DEC. 21, 1921	JAN. 21, 1921
Total Reserves.....	447,159	469,022	345,449
Bills Discounted: Secured by			
Government obligations.....	49,187	55,636	138,530
All other.....	95,717	140,982	271,972
Bills bought in Open Market....	15,092	4,289	13,470
U. S. Securities held.....	37,493	23,788	44,158
Total Earning Assets.....	197,489	224,695	468,130
Total Deposits.....	236,638	246,368	250,736
F. R. Notes in Actual Circulation	377,213	409,983	512,612
Ratio of Total Reserves to Deposit and Federal Reserve Note Liabilities Combined....	72.8%	71.4%	45.2%*

*For comparative purposes, based on total deposits as computed since March 18, 1921.

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PRINCIPAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF REPORTING MEMBER BANKS

The accompanying table shows the trends of principal asset and liability items of banks in the Seventh Federal Reserve District, based on reports of member banks in the leading cities. Liquidation in loans at these banks continued in the period from December 21, 1921, to January 18, 1922; and was at a more rapid rate than shown in the preceding month. Deposits decreased in Chicago and Detroit, but increased in other selected cities. Bills rediscounted with the Federal Reserve Bank show large decreases in Chicago and other selected cities outside of Detroit, while in Detroit a slight increase is shown.

Marked changes from a year ago have occurred, the percentage reduction in loans and discounts having been approximately the same in the three groups of cities. The large decrease in borrowings from the Federal Reserve Bank is seen in the percentage decrease in bills rediscounted and in bills payable.

Detailed statistics of changes follow:

	PER CENT CHANGE JAN. 18, 1922, FROM DEC. 21, 1921			PER CENT CHANGE JAN. 18, 1922, FROM JAN. 21, 1921		
	CHI- CAGO	DE- TROT	OTHER SELECT- ED CITIES	CHI- CAGO	DE- TROT	OTHER SELECT- ED CITIES
*Loans and Discounts.....	- 2.2	- 4.4	- 2.6	-16.1	-18.0	-18.4
Investments.....	- 6.2	0.0	+ 1.1	+20.2	- 3.1	- 6.9
*Loans, Discounts, and Investments.....	- 2.9	- 2.3	- 1.8	-11.6	-11.2	-16.2
Cash and Reserve Balance.....	- 6.3	- 5.4	+ 0.9	- 8.7	- 4.5	- 8.4
Deposits.....	- 1.1	- 3.2	+ 4.0	- 1.7	- 1.9	- 2.6
Bills rediscounted with Federal Reserve Bank.....	-62.0	+ 0.6	-36.6	-87.9	-81.3	-61.8
Bills Payable with Federal Reserve Bank.....	-57.0	+14.0	-33.4	-92.3	-60.4	-78.6

*Including bills rediscounted with Federal Reserve Bank.

Note: Based on reports from 115 member banks, made up of fifty-two Chicago banks, thirteen Detroit banks, and fifty banks in other selected cities on January 21, 1921; and 112 member banks made up of fifty-one Chicago banks, thirteen Detroit banks, and forty-eight banks in other selected cities on December 21, 1921; on January 18, 1922, there was one less bank in other selected cities, and one less in Chicago, owing to consolidations of reporting member banks.

BANKERS' ACCEPTANCES

Reports from banks in the Seventh Federal Reserve District show a continuance during December of the general falling off in acceptance transactions. Bills accepted decreased 37 per cent and bills sold 44 per cent from the November amounts. Smaller decreases were shown in bills bought and bills held at the close of the month.

Purchase rates for December were reported ranging from 4 1/8 to 4 1/2 per cent, although most of the rates reported were 4 1/4 per cent. The maturities of bills purchased were divided as follows: 30-day, 19.3 per cent; 60-day, 30.8 per cent; 90-day, 49.2 per cent, and 180-day, 0.7 per cent. The greater part were reported drawn against tea, provisions, wool, meat, meat products, and cotton.

A detailed summary of returns follows:

	IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS	
	DECEMBER	NOVEMBER
TWENTY-NINE BANKS		
*Bills bought.....	3,878	5,009
**Bills sold.....	7,143	12,710
Bills held at close of month.....	4,395	4,650
Amount accepted.....	5,683	8,981

*Exclusive of bills purchased by the accepting bank, and of purchases for the account of specific customers.

**Exclusive of bills purchased for the account of, and sold to specific customers.

Comparison of statistics on Bankers' Acceptances at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago for November and December follows:

DURING MONTH	DECEMBER	NOVEMBER
Bankers' Acceptances rediscounted ...	\$ 987	\$ 2,637
*Bankers' Acceptances bought	11,394,584	12,287,463
Bankers' Acceptances sold from holdings	9,923	190,000
HELD AT CLOSE OF MONTH—		
Bankers' Acceptances rediscounted ...	987	2,637
*Bankers' Acceptances bought	8,489,145	5,194,568

*Included in Acceptances bought, but not in Acceptances sold, are those bought with agreement by the sellers to repurchase within fifteen days.

COMMERCIAL PAPER

Reports from seven commercial paper dealers show a decrease of 22.5 per cent in aggregate sales during December compared with November. Supply of paper is reported limited and demand for it is small. Many banks are said to be buying bonds instead of commercial paper generally purchased.

Rates were reported ranging from 5 to 6 1/2 per cent, the customary rate being from 5 to 5 1/2 per cent.

DEBITS BY BANKS TO INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTS

The aggregate debits by banks to individual accounts in the twenty-four clearing house centers of the Seventh Federal Reserve District for the week ending January 11, 1922, show an increase of 6.1 per cent, compared with the corresponding week of December, 1921, and a decrease of 6.0 per cent, compared with the corresponding week a year ago. These debits represent the checks drawn on individual accounts and paid by the 201 reporting banks in these twenty-four centers.

The volume of debits to individual accounts in the four weeks ending January 11, 1922, decreased 13.8 per cent and that of the previous four weeks, 12.3 per cent, compared with the corresponding periods of last year. Comparisons by weeks for the Seventh Federal Reserve District, expressed in thousands of dollars, follow:

1922 WEEK ENDING	NUM- BER BANKS	TOTAL	1921 WEEK ENDING	NUM- BER BANKS	TOTAL
January 11	201	964,114	January 12	204	1,025,696
January 4	202	950,691	January 5	206	1,154,846
1921			1920		
December 28	203	754,336	December 29	202	952,766
December 21	203	1,049,320	December 22	203	1,181,606
January 11.....		3,718,461	Total.....		4,314,914
Decrease.....		13.8%	December 15	201	1,116,222
December 28.....		908,272	December 8	196	1,022,142
December 21.....		961,467	December 1	194	1,020,639
November 14.....		811,604	November 24	195	981,957
November 7.....		949,135	Total.....		4,140,960
Total.....		3,630,478			
Decrease.....		12.3%			

Debits to individual accounts reported by the leading clearing house centers in the United States for the four-week periods ending January 11, 1922, and December 14, 1921, show decreases of 12.3 per cent and 8.3 per cent, respectively, when compared with the corresponding periods of the previous year. The total debits for the leading clearing houses in the twelve Federal Reserve districts, compared by weeks, in thousands of dollars, are as follows:

1922 WEEK ENDING	NUM- BER CEN- TERS	TOTAL	1921 WEEK ENDING	NUM- BER CEN- TERS	TOTAL
January 11	162	8,841,528	January 12	162	8,807,499
January 4	162	8,965,442	January 5	159	10,957,269
1921			1920		
December 28	159	6,788,526	December 29	154	8,668,647
December 21	159	9,190,141	December 22	159	10,079,994
Total.....		33,785,637	Total.....		38,513,409
Decrease.....		12.3%			
December 14	159	8,186,683	December 15	159	9,599,658
December 7	154	8,776,462	December 8	154	8,666,862
November 30	155	7,440,542	December 1	155	8,297,104
November 23	152	8,289,721	November 24	152	9,101,695
Total.....		32,693,408	Total.....		35,665,319
Decrease.....		8.3%			

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS AND DEPOSITS

Reports from 187 banks in the Seventh Federal Reserve District, having aggregate deposits of 731 millions on January 1, 1922, show increase of 1.2 per cent in savings deposits compared with December 1, 1921, and 3.7 per cent decrease compared with January 1, 1921. Michigan and Indiana show slight decreases for the month, while Illinois and Wisconsin show rather large gains.

A considerable number of these banks report increase in deposits caused by semi-annual interest credit and transferring of Christmas Club deposits to savings deposits. Michigan banks report withdrawals to pay city taxes due the first of the year and withdrawals for Christmas expenses.

Changes by states in amounts of savings deposits of reporting banks are as follows:

STATES	NUMBER OF BANKS	SAVINGS	PER CENT CHANGE FROM DEC. 1, 1921	CHANGE FROM JAN. 1, 1921
		DEPOSITS JANUARY 1, 1922		
Illinois.....	57	\$357,724,553	+2.9	-0.4
Indiana.....	40	50,520,421	-0.4	-6.5
Iowa.....	31	59,321,498	+0.2	-0.1
Michigan.....	31	207,133,450	-0.1	-7.6
Wisconsin.....	28	55,944,831	+1.6	-9.9
District.....	187	\$730,644,753	+1.2	-3.7

Statistics giving the number of accounts are available from 142 of these banks which show savings deposits of \$680,459,341 in 2,110,570 accounts on January 1, 1922. The average account on January 1, 1922, was \$322.41 compared with \$319.34 on December 1, 1921, and \$345.57 on January 1, 1921.

Changes in average accounts for reporting banks follow:

STATES	NUMBER OF BANKS	PER CENT CHANGE JANUARY 1, 1922 FROM	
		DECEMBER 1, 1921	JANUARY 1, 1921
Illinois.....	49	+2.3	-6.6
Indiana.....	26	-0.8	-7.5
Iowa.....	21	-0.4	-6.5
Michigan.....	28	-0.7	-6.8
Wisconsin.....	18	+1.2	-8.2
District.....	142	+1.0	-6.7

BONDS AND INVESTMENTS

During the month of December there was a reaction in the bond market, partially because of the substantial advance in prices, and also because of the holiday season; in addition there was some selling during December to establish losses.

Public utilities continued to be in demand, while the demand for industrials decreased somewhat. Some foreign securities did not move as quickly as they did prior to December on account of the high prices at which they were brought out.

The usual accumulation of funds at the first of the year did not have as much effect on the market as was expected, although government securities advanced somewhat.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND CONDITIONS

Plantings of 6,443,000 acres of winter wheat and 1,382,000 acres of rye, in the five states lying almost entirely within the Seventh Federal Reserve District, compare favorably with the 6,216,000 and 1,308,000 acres, respectively, planted in 1920, and afford a basis of optimism. Of course, favorable weather for the growing plants and a foreign market for our surplus are essential, especially where the winter wheat sown in the entire United States totaled 44,293,000 acres in the fall of 1921, compared with 44,847,000 in 1920.

Winter wheat and rye throughout the Seventh Federal Reserve District were reported in good condition in early January, with plenty of snow in Southern Wisconsin and Iowa, and some snow in the lower penin-

sula of Michigan, to protect the plant, while it is thought that the light coating of ice together with the unfavorable freezing and thawing weather in Northern Illinois had not damaged wheat and rye to any extent. The weather has retarded the marketing of corn, and farm operations in general. More fall plowing was done, in the lower peninsula of Michigan in 1921 than in previous years, and in Northern Indiana the weather during December and early January was favorable.

Iowa and Indiana farmers report the holding of the new crop corn for higher prices; but the December movement of corn from all points in the United States, to the primary markets, Chicago, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Duluth, St. Louis, Toledo, Detroit, Kansas

City, Peoria, Omaha, Indianapolis, and St. Joseph, show total receipts in December more than twice those of the previous month or December, 1920. This big movement, however, had no appreciable effect on prices at terminal markets. Receipts of oats, at the same markets, while not large, were more than either November or a year ago, but wheat receipts were less.

Shipments of corn and oats from the twelve primary markets were in excess of those for the preceding month and December, 1920. December shipments of grain from Chicago, follow:

	IN THOUSANDS OF UNITS		
	DECEMBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
	1921	1921	1920
Flour (barrels)	638	670	479
Wheat (bushels).....	724	2,074	1,306
Corn (bushels).....	6,311	5,807	3,379
Oats (bushels).....	4,448	3,478	3,903
Rye (bushels).....	538	4	317
Barley (bushels).....	242	242	598

CONTRACT GRAIN PRICES AT CHICAGO

Prices per bushel of cash contract grain, at Chicago, with comparisons follow:

		WEEK ENDING	MONTH	MONTH	MONTH
		JANUARY 14, 1922	DECEMBER, 1921	NOVEMBER, 1921	DECEMBER, 1920
May	Wheat	\$1.08 5/8 @ 1.13 1/8	\$1.10 3/8 @ 1.19	\$1.03 @ 1.18 1/4	\$1.50 1/2 @ 1.64 3/4
December	"	.....	1.06 1/8 @ 1.15 1/4	.98 @ 1.15	1.55 1/2 @ 1.80
July	"	.98 @ 1.02 1/4	1.00 1/8 @ 1.11 1/4	.....	.....
May	Corn	.52 3/4 @ .53 7/8	.52 1/4 @ .55 3/4	.50 1/2 @ .55 7/8	.67 3/4 @ .79 3/8
December	"	.....	.46 @ .49 3/4	.44 5/8 @ .50 3/4	.65 1/2 @ .77
July	"	.54 1/4 @ .55 1/4	.53 7/8 @ .57 1/8	.....	.....
May	Oats	.37 1/8 @ .39 1/8	.37 1/8 @ .39 3/4	.35 1/2 @ .39	.46 7/8 @ .53 5/8
December	"	.....	.31 5/8 @ .34 7/8	.30 1/2 @ .33 7/8	.44 1/4 @ .50 3/8
July	"	.38 1/2 @ .39 3/4	.37 5/8 @ .40 3/8	.....	.....
December	Rye	.....	.80 1/4 @ .85 3/4	.72 1/4 @ .87	1.40 3/4 @ 1.66

There has been a good demand for corn for export to Germany, to other European countries, and for the Russian Relief. The demand from millers for wheat has been poor. Canada has been doing most of the export wheat business, because of differences in price

and exchange; although Argentine became a strong competitor in early January at lower prices than Canadian or United States offerings. The exports of grain from the United States, in December, with comparisons follow:

		DECEMBER, 1921	NOVEMBER, 1921	DECEMBER, 1920	YEARLY TOTAL	
					1921	1920
Barley	(bushels).....	829,934	2,510,935	2,520,191	25,834,000	17,854,227
Corn	(bushels).....	10,243,234	4,621,744	3,041,087	129,054,505	17,761,420
Oats	(bushels).....	97,807	132,248	466,370	3,224,145	12,877,874
Rye	(bushels).....	1,968,671	680,929	5,626,331	29,811,721	57,070,490
Wheat	(bushels).....	10,451,383	13,846,322	25,903,373	279,948,601	218,287,334
Flour	(barrels).....	1,014,012	1,245,865	951,730	16,800,455	19,853,992

The stocks of grain in public and private warehouses at principal points of accumulation, at lake and sea-board ports, and in transit by water in the United States, with comparisons for last January follow:

	IN THOUSANDS OF BUSHELS			
	WEEK ENDING JANUARY 14, 1922		WEEK ENDING JANUARY 15, 1921	
	WAREHOUSES AND AFLOAT	BONDED	WAREHOUSES AND AFLOAT	BONDED
Wheat.....	46,398	21,065	38,154	....
Corn.....	24,259	.....	7,909	....
Oats.....	67,231	1,067	32,300	572
Rye.....	7,028	1,335	2,456	...
Barley.....	2,621	621	2,830	246

Note: These totals furnished by the Secretary of The Chicago Board of Trade.

FLOUR PRODUCTION IN THE DISTRICT

Reports from forty-eight representative millers in this Federal Reserve district show increase in total production of flour of 1.6 per cent during December compared with November, and of 27.3 per cent compared with

December, 1920. The aggregate production of these mills for December was 385,766 barrels of which 345,285 barrels was wheat flour and 40,481, other flour. Production of wheat flour increased 2.2 per cent over November, 1921, and 24.3 over December, 1920. That of other flour decreased 3.0 per cent compared with November, 1921, and increased 60.2 per cent over December, 1920. Based on capacity production, 24-hour working day, these mills were operating 38.9 per cent of capacity in December and 39.9 per cent in November, while in December, 1920, operations were at 30.6 per cent of capacity.

Jobbing firms handling flour and also bakers are reported to be buying very little flour.

FARM LABOR AND WAGES

The wages of farm labor, in the states lying almost entirely within the Seventh Federal Reserve District, show declines for the year from those of 1920. The changes follow:

		1921			1920		
		PER MONTH	HARVEST WORK	ORDINARY	PER MONTH	HARVEST WORK	ORDINARY
		YEARLY BASIS	PER DAY	WORK PER DAY	YEARLY BASIS	PER DAY	WORK PER DAY
Iowa	(with board).....	\$39.55	\$2.76	\$2.25	\$66.35	\$5.00	\$4.08
"	(without board).....	52.40	3.37	2.72	83.50	5.85	4.89
Indiana	(with board).....	32.00	2.60	1.90	45.00	4.00	2.90
"	(without board).....	40.00	3.25	2.30	62.00	4.85	3.65
Wisconsin	(with board).....	39.20	2.65	...	62.50	4.10	...
"	(without board).....	56.00	3.40	...	83.50	4.90	...
Michigan	(with board).....	34.00	2.60	2.00	53.00	4.10	3.30
"	(without board).....	51.00	3.30	2.60	75.00	4.95	4.15
Illinois	(with board).....				52.90	4.40	3.25
"	(without board).....				68.40	5.20	4.00

PRODUCE—BUTTER AND CHEESE

Creamery butter production for the United States in December exceeded that of December, 1920 by over 40 per cent and compared very favorably with that of November, 1921. The commercial output of Wisconsin cheese, for the four weeks ending December 31, was 9,962,796 pounds, a decrease of 14.1 per cent from the preceding month.

Total receipts of produce at Chicago in December, compared with November, increased as follows: butter 16.3 per cent (although receipts from Illinois were less); poultry, 5.4 per cent (notwithstanding the decline in receipts from Wisconsin); eggs, 31.2 per cent (receipts from the five states in the Seventh Federal Reserve District increased only 0.9 per cent, due to the falling off of egg receipts from Wisconsin); but cheese receipts at Chicago declined 1.6 per cent.

Wholesale prices of produce at Chicago show the following changes: eggs trended downward from November, declined sharply to 29½ cents a dozen for firsts about the middle of January, but made some recovery later; ninety-two score butter for December averaged 43.42 cents a pound, a decline of 1.3 per cent from the November average, and showed further declines in early January; live poultry (excepting live turkeys, which declined) which improved in December over November, were about steady in early January.

The December wholesale prices of cheese at Plymouth, Wisconsin, which were higher than in November, were maintained during the first two weeks of January. Heavy importations of butter from abroad affected Eastern butter markets.

The Bureau of Markets reports the cold storage holdings of poultry and dairy products in the United States as follows:

	IN THOUSANDS OF POUNDS			
	JANUARY 1,		DECEMBER 1,	
	1922	1921	1921	1920
Broilers.....	13,894	12,238	12,463	10,970
Roasters.....	37,047	22,232	21,713	11,242
Fowls.....	20,145	14,673	10,006	7,212
Turkeys.....	7,555	6,015	3,293	4,351
Miscellaneous Poultry..	24,714	23,867	17,692	15,270
Creamery Butter.....	48,391	58,682	65,129	79,750
Packing Stock Butter..	1,283	2,773	1,427	3,139
American Cheese.....	27,642	34,115	34,055	39,931
Swiss Cheese.....	3,556	4,590	4,326	4,883
Brick and Munster....	1,774	1,753	1,767	1,592
Limburger.....	738	956	866	1,059
Cottage, Pot and Bakers	2,291	4,089	2,627	4,825
Cream and Neufchatel..	309	150	280	199
All other Cheese.....	4,622	5,515	5,081	6,321
Case Eggs*.....	886	408	2,403	1,824
Frozen Eggs*.....	19,123	27,325	22,899	29,945

*In thousands of cases of 30 dozen each.

Note: These holdings include stocks in both cold storage warehouses and packing plants.

MOVEMENT OF LIVE STOCK

With the exception of hogs, receipts of live stock at the principal markets decreased in December compared

with November, while all except calf receipts were less than in December, 1920. Detailed statistics follow:

	SIXTY-SEVEN MARKETS			EIGHT YARDS, SEVENTH FEDERAL RESERVE DISTRICT			CHICAGO		TOTAL FOR YEAR 1921 COMPARED WITH 1920	
	NUMBER	PER CENT		NUMBER	PER CENT		PER CENT		67	
	HEAD	CHANGE FROM		HEAD	CHANGE FROM		CHANGE FROM		CHICAGO MARKETS	
	DECEMBER 1,	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER		
	1921	1921	1920	1921	1921	1920	1921	1920		
SLAUGHTER										
Cattle.....	493,064	-23.0	-11.2	164,603	-18.5	-4.5	-21.7	-1.1	-11.9	-12.7
Hogs.....	2,137,484	-9.8	-20.3	702,093	-20.8	-34.6	-23.5	-38.5	+1.8	-1.8
Sheep.....	803,842	-18.7	-9.8	252,691	-23.3	-8.3	-18.5	-5.7	+20.7	+17.1
Calves.....	246,931	-16.2	+7.4	87,354	-5.5	+10.5	-9.4	+5.2	+0.6	-2.0
RECEIPTS										
Cattle.....	1,034,879	-28.5	-4.5	301,051	-16.3	-11.2	-16.7	-12.1	-10.9	-15.3
Hogs.....	3,911,478	+6.1	-6.9	1,333,707	+6.6	-16.5	+13.9	+0.5	+8.2	-2.6
Sheep.....	1,664,337	-19.5	+6.2	420,877	-20.4	-0.1	-12.8	+2.4	+18.2	+2.7
Calves.....	380,288	-20.9	+22.3	104,765	-3.4	+2.3	-5.5	+4.9	+0.5	+2.6

The feeder movement of cattle and lambs back to the farms showed further decline in December. The total

movement for the year 1921, at nine markets, showed a decline from the yearly total for 1920 of 10.9 per cent in

cattle and 44.7 per cent in sheep. Changes in the feeder movement for December are shown in percentages in the following table:

	PRINCIPAL FEEDER 67 MARKETS IN UNITED MARKETS, DECEMBER, STATES, DECEMBER, 1921 1921			
	COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER DECEMBER 1921 1920		COMPARED WITH NOVEMBER DECEMBER 1921 1920	
	1921	1920	1921	1920
Cattle and Calves....	-51.7	-10.9	-50.6	-12.2
Sheep and Lambs....	-60.8	-23.1	-60.4	-21.9

While receipts of live stock, which fell off at the twenty principal markets during the latter part of December, increased considerably during the second week in January, many of the average prices of live stock at Chicago were higher than the December average, but some classes of live cattle had before this date begun to fluctuate slightly. Prices at Chicago with comparisons follow:

CLASS	WEEK END JAN. 14, 1922	AVERAGE CHICAGO PRICES MONTHS OF		
		DEC. 1921	NOV. 1921	DEC. 1920
		Native Beef Steers		
750-1050 lbs.....	\$6.25	\$5.70	\$5.90	\$8.90
1050-1200 lbs.....	6.80	6.40	6.50	9.70
1200-1350 lbs.....	7.30	7.00	7.15	10.55
1350-1500 lbs.....	7.60	7.50	7.60	12.00
1500-1800 lbs.....	8.10	7.90	8.40	14.10
General Averages....		6.95	7.40	10.10
Fat Cows and Heifers	4.65	4.50	4.30	6.00
Canners and Cutters	2.65	2.30	2.55	3.65
Calves.....	8.85	8.70	9.15	10.20
Stockers and Feeders	5.95	5.75	5.45	7.10
Hogs.....	7.61*	6.90	7.05	9.55
Pigs.....		7.40	7.60	9.75
Sheep.....	5.70 @ 6.50	4.60	4.15	4.70
Yearling Sheep.....	10.15	9.00	7.00	8.90
Lambs.....	11.70 @ 12.40	10.10	8.95	11.20

*Average for first 14 days in January.

MEATS AND PROVISIONS COVERING THE UNITED STATES

Returns from thirty meat packing houses in the United States show that December sales for fourteen were more than for November, while the total for the thirty showed an increase of 2.0 per cent in December dollar sales over those of November, and a decline of 18.3 per cent from those of December, 1920. Twenty-five retail meat markets in the Seventh Federal Reserve District show an increase of 6.9 per cent over November dollar sales but a decrease of 17.8 per cent from those of December, 1920.

The net shipments (shipments less receipts) of meats and lard from Chicago in December were 6.3 per cent less than in November and 16.3 per cent less than in December, 1920, while shipments including forwarding and not deducting receipts were 12.4 per cent less than in November and 23.9 per cent below December, 1920.

Stocks of lard and cured meats, at principal markets, increased on January 1, over those of the previous month but were lower than those of December a year ago. Chicago stocks of lard on January 14 were 38.7 per cent more than on January 1, but were more than 50 per cent below those for the same period in 1921.

Cold storage holdings of frozen and cured meats for the entire United States on January 1, 1922 are as follows:

	IN THOUSANDS OF POUNDS			
	JANUARY 1, 1922		DECEMBER 1, 1921	
	1922	1921	1921	1920
Frozen Beef.....	68,226	120,245	63,188	89,718
Frozen Pork.....	49,520	93,990	37,513	60,007
Frozen Lamb and Mutton	6,401	68,032	7,520	56,702
Cured Beef.....	5,895	10,728	6,859	10,287
In process.....	10,426	11,839	10,285	12,160
Dry Salt Pork.....	52,560	71,904	50,367	73,409
In process.....	56,320	73,093	46,364	40,991
Pickled Pork.....	80,813	117,786	73,949	100,657
In process.....	171,250	177,207	147,396	151,613
Lard.....	46,714	59,319	42,001	36,683
Miscellaneous Meats....	61,472	75,421	61,216	60,092

Note: These holdings include stocks in both cold storage warehouses and packing plants.

There was a better domestic demand for meats and lard in evidence toward the close of December and, although it inclined to be irregular in the opening weeks of January, it averaged good. Ten packers report

fresh and cured meats moving well in domestic channels during the early part of January, although two reported no improvement.

Chicago wholesale prices of fresh beef and veal averaged slightly lower, as a whole, for December than for November. Fresh and cured pork prices were irregular and continued so during the first two weeks in January; fresh hams, cured skinned hams, lighter average bellies, and some of the miscellaneous cuts increased, while dressed hogs, and numerous cuts of importance decreased. The mid-month sharp advances of fresh and cured pork, in December, were of short duration and failed to bring the average for the month above that of November.

The December wholesale prices of lamb and mutton at Chicago were higher than in November and showed further advances during the first two weeks in January. Hams, cured skinned hams, and fresh picnics showed advances from December while dressed hogs, loins and other important cuts declined or showed little change. Wholesale beef at Chicago tended to decline for the first two weeks in January, although it showed little change from December, but veal advanced.

Chicago retail prices of beef and veal showed little change in December or the first two weeks in January. Retail prices of such fresh pork cuts as are ordinarily marketed through retail butcher shops declined in December, compared with November, and for the first two weeks in January showed little change from the closing weeks in December, continuing lower than in early December, although they trended slightly lower later in the month. Chicago retail prices of lamb averaged higher in December than in November, but showed little further change for the first two weeks in January.

Seasonal falling off in the export demand set in during December, and trade was comparatively dull in early January. Trade on the continent, although fair in December, continued to be affected by exchange in Poland, Austria, Italy, and Germany. Some cancellations were reported on sales made months ago to Italian firms for shipment in December. Demand from England, which was good in early December, was somewhat disappointing later in the month, in view of the advance

in exchange which took place. This falling off was attributed to the holidays and to the fact that shipments made shortly previous were sufficient to allow some accumulation of stocks, particularly of lard. Denmark, Sweden, and Holland continue to hold the bulk of the English bacon trade.

Although a large portion of the present business is being done from consigned stocks already abroad, consignments make up a good portion of present shipments, but, considering the uncertainty of exchange and the ample supplies from South America, Australia, and New Zealand, there is a good volume of straight sales.

Exports of provisions from the United States in December are as follows:

IN POUNDS	DECEMBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
	1921	1921	1920
Beef, canned.... (pounds)	154,646	188,712	221,691
Beef, fresh..... (pounds)	274,250	268,245	1,583,434
Beef, pickled.... (pounds)	1,325,056	2,305,728	3,053,993
Oleo Oil..... (pounds)	6,969,658	6,529,405	6,943,277
Bacon..... (pounds)	21,309,729	15,642,319	68,784,322
Hams and			
Shoulders..... (pounds)	15,538,070	16,783,073	14,491,763
Lard (all)..... (pounds)	66,046,169	52,593,485	91,287,785
Pork, pickled.... (pounds)	2,021,706	2,365,171	2,691,492
Compound..... (pounds)	2,472,486	4,106,115	4,689,443

CONDITIONS IN THE HIDE AND LEATHER MARKETS

Sales of green hides in the East as well as the West were less in December than in November. During December and early January trading in sheep skins has been fairly active at Chicago, although inactive at New York. Sales of green calf skins and kip skins in the United States decreased 13.9 per cent in December from those of November, such decrease occurring largely in the East and Middle West. Calf and kip skin markets which were inactive in early January became active at Chicago around the middle of January but at slightly lower prices.

December sales of green cattle hides in the United States decreased about 20 per cent from those of November, with a falling off in the Middle West as well as in the East. Net shipments (shipments less receipts) of all green hides from Chicago were 7.8 per cent less than in November, although shipments alone, including forwarding, were 9.6 per cent more than in November, 1921, and double those for December, 1920.

The packer hide market at Chicago and in the East was rather inactive in early January, but there has been some inquiry at Chicago for country hides, although the trading in them has been limited also.

Official reports of holdings of the principal items of green hides and skins in the United States on December 1, 1921, with comparisons follow:

HOLDINGS*	PER CENT CHANGE COMPARED WITH		
	DECEMBER 1, 1921	NOVEMBER 1, 1921	DECEMBER 1, 1920
Cattle Hides..... (hides) ..	5,901,843	-1.5	-17.5
Calf and Kip..... (skins) ..	4,150,610	-4.0	-15.5
Goat and Cabretta. (skins) ..	11,823,474	0.0	-12.2
Sheep and Lamb.... (skins) ..	13,364,170	+2.3	+5.2
Cattle and Kip, India Tanned (hides and skins).....	180,469	-2.0	-76.7

*There was a slight increase in the number of reporting firms.

Butchers and packers held cattle hides, 1,524,682; calf and kip, 496,493; sheep and lamb, 679,825; compared with those for the previous month of cattle, 1,629,108; calf and kip, 531,981; sheep and lamb, 1,050,896. The larger portion of the balance was held by tanners, although dealers and importers had good-sized holdings.

The average prices of green hides at Chicago with comparisons follow:

PACKER HIDES	WEEK ENDING		FOUR WEEKS IN	
	JANUARY 14, 1922	JANUARY 15, 1921	DECEMBER 1921	NOVEMBER 1921
Heavy Native				
Steers.....	\$.16 1/2	\$.17 1/2	\$.16 1/2	\$.15 3/4
Butt Brand....	.16	.14	.16	.15 1/4
Heavy Native				
Cows.....	.14 3/4	.15 1/2	.14 7/8	.14 3/4
Native Bulls..	.10	.11 1/2	.09 3/5	.08 3/4
COUNTRY HIDES				
Heavy Steers..	.09 1/2	.13 1/2	.09 1/2	.09 1/2
Branded.....	.06	.06 1/2	.05 3/4	.05 1/4
SKINS				
Calf Skins....	.13 3/4	.15	.13 3/4	.15 1/4
Lamb Skins... 1.57 1/2	1.05	1.48 3/4	1.13 1/2	

Note: All except lamb skins priced by the pound; lamb skins priced per skin.

LEATHER AND TANNING

Leather sales in the Seventh Federal Reserve District decreased 10 to 15 per cent in December compared with November, but were 40 to 50 per cent more in volume than in December, 1920. The decline since November in the sales of harness, sole, upper leather, and belting is caused in part by the taking of inventory and a reluctance to increase purchases until after results of the style show were known.

Stocks of the principal kinds of leather on hand in the United States on December 1, 1921, with comparisons, follow:

	HOLDINGS	PER CENT CHANGE FROM	
	DECEMBER 1, 1921	NOV. 1,* 1921	DEC. 1,* 1920
Sole Leather (backs, bends and sides).....	11,140,094	+0.1	+11.5
Cattle Upper Leather (sides).....	7,644,994	-2.2	-12.2
Cattle Upper Leather Splits (equivalent sides).....	5,897,824	+9.0	-2.4
Belting Butts (butts).....	891,326	-4.0	+80.5
Harness and Case Bag (sides).....	777,616	+3.7	+13.5
Calf and Kip (skins).....	8,105,926	+2.6	+19.5
Goat, Kid and Cabrettas (skins).....	24,765,785	+0.5	-11.2
Sheep, Lamb and Shearling (skins).....	10,359,218	+1.1	+0.2
Offal, Belting and Sole etc., (pounds).....	86,057,288	+0.1	+26.1
Cut Soles (dozen pair)....	8,904,097	+3.0	+19.5

*Not strictly comparable due to an increase in number of reporting firms.

In the Middle West and in the East sales of leather sides declined from those of November, while in the entire United States sales showed a decline of 15.0 per cent. Up to the middle of January there had been little change in the Eastern demand for leather, although there was some buying at Chicago by Western manufacturers and there has been a marked increase in inquiries from shoe manufacturers.

Some fluctuations in the prices of practically all kinds of upper leather occurred during November, but

reductions that were made were few and only nominal. Lower grade calf leather declined during December, but belting prices remained on a par with November. Sole leather has been in good demand in early January at steady prices, but there has been a slight tendency toward stiffening in some leather prices in January.

Reporting concerns state that the December inventory prices have been reduced considerably from those of 1920. Collections are reported as satisfactory.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

The closing month of the year 1921 showed a definite decline in employment. Much of this, however, was temporary and attributed to the closing down of many plants for one or two weeks for repair work and to the taking of annual inventory. Too much significance, therefore, cannot be attached to the December figures and the real trend in employment will not become apparent until the reports for January are completed. The industrial employment survey under the direction of the United States Department of Labor, covering 1,428 concerns, shows a decrease in the number employed from November 30 to December 31 of 4.7 per cent. For Chicago alone the decrease was 2.7 per cent. The 731 establishments reporting to the Illinois Department of Labor show a reduction amounting to 4.0 per cent.

Replies to the labor questionnaire covering the Seventh Federal Reserve District gave the following results for December, 1921:

	DISTRICT	CHICAGO
Number of firms reporting.....	269	80
Total number employed December 31, 1921.....	166,465	71,107
Number employed as compared with—		
(a) the preceding month.....	- 4.7	- 5.9
(b) the same month a year ago.....	-14.9	-12.1
Amount of payroll as compared with—		
(a) the preceding month.....	- 3.0	- 1.6
(b) the same month a year ago.....	-25.1	-19.1
Pay per man as compared with—		
(a) the preceding month.....	+ 1.8	+ 4.5
(b) the same month a year ago.....	-12.1	- 7.9
Percentage of production to maximum monthly output in 1920:		
(a) December, 1921.....	57	57
(b) November, 1921.....	58	55
(c) December, 1920.....	60	58

The decrease of 4.7 per cent shown for the month by these 269 firms was contributed to by most of the industrial groups included. The largest of these groups, the total steel and iron products, decreased employment by 3.4 per cent. Another important group, the packing plants, decreased about 16 per cent. The strike in the latter industry seems to have spent its force, since packers claim that they are operating normally. The building trades suffered a seasonal slump. Many firms of the stone, cement and clay products group report that they have closed down their plants, and the percentage decrease shown by this group is correspondingly large. For the automobile industry in the above table the reduction was 14.6 per cent.

Additional returns from automobile and accessories plants at Detroit show a corresponding reduction of 58 per cent. This reduction, however, was to a large extent temporary, for many closed plants were re-opening early in January. The heavy decrease in the miscellaneous food products group, which includes the manufacture of confectionery and cereals, is attributed to the same cause.

Changes shown in the employment situation by industries follow:

INDUSTRY	REPORT- ING	PER CENT CHANGE IN NUMBER OF MEN SINCE		
		DEC. 31, 1921	NOV. 30, 1921	DEC. 31, 1920
Steel and Iron—(Primary Pro- duction).....	7	9,149	-5 .8	-42.2
Agricultural Machinery.....	11	3,157	+ 1.4	-62.1
Heavy Machinery.....	7	6,049	+ 0.6	-40.2
Railway Equipment.....	8	3,320	+ 2.9	-24.8
Machine Tools.....	4	1,062	+ 2.3	-43.7
Other Steel and Iron Products..	17	11,257	- 6.8	-24.1
Total Steel and Iron Products	54	33,994	- 3.4	-38.6
Railway Repair Shops.....	4	8,135	-1.4	+ 7.3
Automobile and Accessories....	8	3,938	-14.6	-15.5
Electrical Goods.....	7	4,502	- 7.0	-28.4
Metals other than Steel and Iron	12	3,340	- 1.2	-19.9
Coal.....	6	6,521	- 0.5	+ 0.7
Public Utility.....	7	29,697	- 2.7	- 5.8
Lumber.....	8	3,009	+ 4.0	- 3.4
Stone,Cement and Clay Products	16	1,272	-47.1	-52.4
Contracting and Building.....	8	2,324	-15.8	-50.3
Furniture.....	15	2,576	- 2.4	-10.8
Musical Instruments.....	10	1,963	- 3.8	-13.5
FOOD PRODUCTS				
Packing.....	4	13,670	-15.6	-21.3
Bread and Bakery Products..	4	869	- 4.1	- 2.2
Other Products.....	9	3,139	-23.7	+27.7
Total Food Products.....	17	17,678	-16.7	-14.6
Tailoring.....	17	9,116	+ 1.7	+48.6
Knit Goods and Wearing Apparel	10	7,329	+ 1.2	+32.3
Leather.....	8	4,430	+ 8.3	+20.9
Shoes.....	18	5,964	+ 7.0	+66.9
Chemicals,Paints,Dyes and Soap	9	4,555	+ 0.6	- 6.9
Paper and Printing.....	14	4,895	+ 1.5	- 8.8
Containers.....	12	2,730	0.0	- 2.3
Unclassified.....	9	8,497	- 8.2	-24.2
Entire District.....	269	166,465	- 4.7	-14.9

The only noteworthy increases for the month occurred in leather and shoe manufacturing. However, as compared with the corresponding month of 1920, most of the industries made a better showing at the close of December than they did at the close of November. This change in the yearly comparison figures was the result, not of any special improvement in

conditions at the present time, but of the correspondingly larger decreases that took place at the close of 1920. Thus, for the automobile and accessories plants as shown in the above table, the decrease for December this year was 14.6 per cent as against 31.7 per cent last year; for the miscellaneous food products, 23.7 per cent as against 41.4 per cent; for metals, other than

steel and iron, 1.2 per cent as against 13.7 per cent; and in the box and container industry, employment remained stationary this year, while last year there was a reduction of 13.7 per cent. These figures give an indication of the general improvement in conditions that is prevailing now as compared with the same time last year.

BITUMINOUS COAL PRODUCTION

Coal production in the district continues on the decline; reports for December show a considerable decrease as compared with November, which may be explained in part by the continued mild weather, fewer hours worked, and competition with non-union Eastern districts.

The estimated production from all Illinois mines is 5,442,217 tons for December, as against 6,140,890 tons for November, and 7,863,298 tons for December, 1920. Annual production figures for Illinois show a drop from 90,050,000 tons in 1920 to 68,161,455 tons in 1921.

In the Central Illinois coal mining district, sixty-one companies report a production of 1,270,639 tons during December, compared with 1,345,381 tons during November. Mines operated only 45.7 per cent of full time, as compared with 53.9 per cent in November, the percentage of full time hours lost being distributed as follows: transportation, 1.2 per cent in December, against 1.1 per cent in November; labor shortage, 0.8 per cent, against 0.9 per cent; strikes, 0.3 per cent, against 1.1 per cent; mine disability, 2.7 per cent, against 2.0 per cent; and lack of market, 49.3 per cent, against 41.0 per cent. The estimated tonnage lost on account of these causes was 1,443,317. Production in the week ending January 14, 1922 was 245,919 tons, compared with 302,757 tons in the preceding week.

Production in the Indiana district from 179 mines was 1,462,155 tons in December, compared with

1,413,425 tons from 178 mines in November. Mines operated only 31.7 per cent of full-time, as compared with 35.5 per cent in November, the percentage of full-time hours lost being distributed as follows: transportation, 0.8 per cent in December, against 1.0 per cent in November; labor trouble, 3.7 per cent, against 13.0 per cent; mine disability, 6.9 per cent, against 7.1 per cent; and lack of market, 57.0 per cent, against 43.4 per cent. The estimated tonnage lost on account of these causes was 2,680,981. Production in the week ending January 14, 1922, was 404,038 tons, compared with 401,689 tons in the preceding week.

Steam coal and screenings were slightly stronger in demand and price during December because of colder weather and the slight industrial pick-up. Prices, on the whole, were about on a level with those of the preceding month. Railroads are buying very little outside of contract, but are accumulating some storage on account of lighter business. Collections have not improved.

The industry in this district is at present handicapped to some extent, on account of the competition of non-union districts of Pennsylvania, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia, where heavy wage reductions have been made. Inasmuch as the present wage agreement for the Illinois and Indiana fields does not expire until March 31, not much relief from this condition can be expected until new schedules are made.

MANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUT

IRON AND STEEL

Production of iron continued to improve over the low production of the previous months of 1921, but the steel ingot production declined from that of November. Statistical figures on production in gross tons follow:

	DECEMBER 1921	NOVEMBER 1921	DECEMBER 1920
Pig Iron			
Illinois, Michigan and Indiana.	324,177	272,625	.....
Pig Iron			
United States.....	1,640,997	1,415,481	2,703,855
Steel Ingots (thirty companies) ..	1,427,093	1,660,001	2,340,365
Lake Ore Shipments (via boat) ..	.....*	406,451	99,146
Unfilled Orders on Books of the United States Steel Corporation (at end of month).....	4,268,414	4,250,542	8,148,122
Stock of Iron Ore, Lake Erie Docks at end of December (after close of navigation).....	8,434,324	.....	9,927,317

*Navigation closed.

Much of the present limited buying is from railroads and the industries serving them; these industries showed slightly renewed interest after the first of the year, and railroads placed orders for equipment and tools.

Orders for 750,000 base boxes of tin plate for manufacture into cans for export were placed with the United States Steel Corporation and independent companies in early January.

Prices of steel tended lower in January as will be seen in the following table:

	WEEK ENDING	MONTHS OF		
	JAN. II 1922	DECEMBER 1921	NOVEMBER 1921	DECEMBER 1920
Average 14 iron and steel products in the United States	\$33.54	\$33.99	\$34.71	\$54.04

PRICE PER GROSS TON AT CHICAGO	WEEK ENDING	MONTHS OF		
	JAN. 11 1922	DECEMBER 1921	NOVEMBER 1921	DECEMBER 1920
Lake Superior Char- coal Pig Iron . . .	31.50	31.50	32.25	51.50
No. 2 Foundry Pig Iron	19.00	20.00	21.00	37.00
Malleable	19.00	20.00	21.00	37.50
Finished Steel Bars*	1.60	1.60	1.68	2.73
Finished Iron Bars*	1.60	1.65	1.70	3.43
Finished Beams* . . .	1.65	1.65	1.68	2.85
Tank Plates*	1.60	1.60	1.68	3.03
SCRAP AT CHICAGO				
Old No. 1. Wrought Iron	12.00	12.10	13.70	16.60

*Prices per hundred-weight.

Sheet steel at Pittsburgh on January 11, showed a slight increase over the average price for the previous month. Mill operations in the Chicago district declined slightly during the first part of January.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

Sales of all kinds of agricultural machinery were slightly less during December than in November, but were only a fractional part of those for December, 1920. Inventories on December 31, based on returns from four concerns, were slightly less in volume and dollar values than in the preceding year, although there was a larger portion of finished goods on hand this year.

AUTOMOBILE PRODUCTION AND SHIPMENTS

While the number of visitors at the Eastern automobile show indicates increased interest in the motor car, the improvement in actual business looked for with the turn of the year has not yet materialized. The Chicago and other Western automobile shows now under way or approaching, are relied upon by manufacturers to give an indication of the probable absorption of cars during the spring months.

Manufacturers are moving cautiously. Dealers throughout the country are not in a strong financial position. The decline in price of new automobiles has demoralized the second-hand car market, and as a result of the decline in used-car prices, dealers have been compelled to absorb severe losses on cars that have been traded in. There is a more widespread feeling among manufacturers than has existed for some time, that prices are now settling to a level on which they are likely to stabilize, for the season at least. Cuts made since Christmas have been fairly general, although prices with few exceptions are not quite down to pre-war levels. These exceptions, however, are offset to some extent by improvements and increased equipment on the car. Inventories show a considerable decrease.

It is estimated by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, that the production in 1921 amounted to 1,680,000 cars and trucks, a decrease of 24 per cent from the previous year. Of this total 1,535,000 are automobiles, and 145,000, trucks. The wholesale value of cars and trucks, factory price, was \$1,222,350,000, or 45 per cent less than 1920 production. The average wholesale price of motor cars in 1921 was \$702, against an average of \$897 the previous year. The average wholesale price of motor trucks in 1921

was \$968, against an average for 1920 of \$1,273.

Export shipments of passenger cars increased during December more than one-fourth in number and value, while motor trucks increased one-fifth in number and more than one-third in value, compared with the previous month; parts of cars and trucks, exclusive of engines and tires show a slight increase. Exports of motorcycles were three-fourths larger than in November. Actual figures for December are: Passenger cars complete, 1,784, value, \$1,709,264; chassis, 862, value, \$646,018; motor trucks, complete, 161, value, \$178,595; chassis, 350, value, \$322,191; parts of trucks and cars, value, \$2,688,850; motorcycles, 868, value, \$250,457; airplanes, 4, value, \$35,000; airplane parts, value, \$1,480.

Motor car production in December showed a sharp decrease compared with November. Returns from 130 automobile manufacturers show 70,690 passenger cars and 8,305 motor trucks produced in December compared with 105,814 passenger cars and 10,535 produced in November. There are no comparative figures for these 130 companies for December, 1920. Automobile producers contributing 94 per cent of the total output for November, report 62,030 passenger cars produced in December, against 98,196 November last, and 85,995 in December, 1920. This indicates a production in December below that of a year ago.

The truck production for December was also smaller. Companies producing 68 per cent of the total output reported for November, show a December production of 6,280 trucks, compared with 7,188 trucks the previous month, and 5,315 trucks in December, 1920.

December shipments, partially estimated by the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce show increase over the previous year of 5 per cent, but a decrease of 19 per cent compared with the previous month. Tabulation of factory shipments for the last two years follows:

	CARLOADS		DRIVEAWAYS		BOAT	
	1921	1920	1921	1920	1921	1920
January	6,485	25,057	3,185	29,283	93	.....
February	9,986	25,505	7,507	43,719	99	.....
March	16,287	29,326	9,939	57,273	75	.....
April	20,187	17,147	14,197	64,634	1,619	.....
May	18,608	21,977	15,193	74,286	2,381	.....
June	20,269	22,516	18,834	60,746	3,947	8,350
July	19,514	23,082	15,533	52,342	3,726	8,702
August	20,758	23,386	15,218	34,060	3,595	7,095
September	19,002	20,804	13,840	24,431	2,959	5,469
October	17,717	17,209	12,926	14,127	2,214	2,519
November	14,240	13,253	10,505	9,497	1,402	659
December	*12,100	11,802	*7,500	6,469	134	89
Total	195,153	251,064	144,377	470,867	22,244	32,883

*December 1921 partly estimated.

Statistics covering the motor and accessories manufacturing industry are not available for December. November statistics, however, indicate a considerable falling off in automobile unit and equipment production. During November, purchases of parts, units, and accessories by automobile passenger car and motor truck manufacturers declined 13 per cent under the previous month. These figures represent returns from 300 parts manufacturers. During the same time a decrease of almost 4 per cent was made in the totals of

past due accounts. However, the totals of notes outstanding increased 5.73 per cent. The past due accounts showed an upward tendency both in September and October.

FURNITURE

Furniture manufacturing in December continued to show a decline, partially as a result of seasonal factors in the industry. Combined returns from eighty-two concerns in the United States made to Associated Furniture and to this bank, indicate a decrease of 33.1 per cent in orders and of 18.0 per cent in shipments for December, compared with November. Nineteen concerns in the Seventh Federal Reserve District show a decrease of 18.0 per cent in orders and 28.5 per cent in shipments for the same periods.

Conditions in the industry, however, are considerably better than a year ago. Nineteen manufacturers in this district report an increase of 183.6 per cent in orders, and of 89.0 per cent in shipments for December, 1921, compared with December a year ago.

Interest at this time centers in the Chicago and Grand Rapids furniture shows, which are being held during January. Attendance at both shows has been very good. Buying has been comparatively light. Prices are, on the whole, lower and the market is steady.

The comparative figures for the furniture industry follow:

	SEVENTH RESERVE DISTRICT	UNITED STATES
Number reporting*.....	28	82
Production percentage of normal.....	83.7	80.1
December orders.....	\$1,069,665	\$2,008,775
November orders.....	1,307,814	3,004,698
December shipments.....	1,220,284	2,666,129
November shipments.....	1,710,177	3,267,280
December cancellations.....	57,671	249,442
November cancellations.....	35,107	151,409
(12 concerns in Seventh District and 66 in U. S.)		
January 1, unfilled orders.....	1,805,361	3,125,214

*Based on combined returns to Associated Furniture, and to this bank.

BOX AND CONTAINER

Manufacturers of paper boxes felt the full force of the depression during 1921, their business being decidedly reduced from 1920.

A summary for the last half of the year, as compiled from returns to the monthly questionnaire, showing material used as well as dollar sales, follows:

1921	PER CENT CHANGE COMPARED WITH SAME PERIOD IN 1920		PER CENT CHANGE COMPARED WITH PRECEDING MONTH OF 1921	
	SALES*	MATERIAL	SALES*	MATERIAL
July.....	-70.0	-52.0	+13.0	-11.0
August.....	-66.7	-60.0	+22.9	- 1.8
September.....	-67.5	-52.0	+11.8	+20.2
October.....	-61.5	-45.0	+22.8	+10.7
November.....	-25.4	-21.4	- 0.1	-13.9
December.....	-9.1	-38.8	-12.6	- 6.4
Twelve Months..	-59.2	-47.6	.....	.....

*Dollar basis. Ten concerns reporting.

CONFECTIONERY

Two large cracker and candy manufacturers report December sales smaller than for November, but larger than a year ago. Business for the year averages 60 per cent of that for 1920 in dollars and 75 per cent in volume of goods sold. Present inventories are less than half the stocks on hand at the beginning of the year. Reductions in prices were made January 1.

SHOE MANUFACTURING

The differential in wage rates between shoe manufacturers in the Middle West and in the East has continued to give the advantage to the Western manufacturer. This may be partially accounted for by the fact that in the East, war wages in this industry reached a higher level than in the Middle West. Labor in the New England district has been resisting any reduction; the result being that some classes of Western-made shoes could be sold cheaper in New England than the same quality manufactured there. Since shoe manufacturers in the Seventh Federal Reserve District have not been compelled to make any marked wage reductions, labor is showing a disposition to give a good day's work.

The retail shoe business has been slower in taking its losses, because of a somewhat general resistance to declining prices, and because it has tried to sell heavy stocks on hand without marked reductions in price. Thus, there has been a wide variation in retail prices for several months. Dealers who had reduced their prices to replacement values rapidly cleaned up their stocks, while others who held to war-time prices delayed the resumption of activity for a considerable period.

Present retail prices are in proportion to other manufactured articles, and the industry is on a competitive basis. A low price demand, that could not be satisfied otherwise, has been met by cheap grades. In a survey conducted by one manufacturer among his customers situated west of the Mississippi, more than half of them reported sales slow, and only one-fifth reported sales, good, but one-fifth reported improving conditions. Stocks in general are considerably smaller than at this time last year.

Shoe production increased in December, though shipments fell off, the additional production going into stocks. Cautious buying has developed a general practice of carrying stocks for immediate delivery, manufacturers' finished stocks amounting in the aggregate to about 70 per cent of the December production.

Since the average per cent of capacity operating increased in December, it would seem that the manufacturer has confidence in the outlook; this may be based on the fact that unfilled orders on hand at the end of December showed an increase over those on the books at the close of November.

In the readjustment, few manufacturers seem to have been permanently injured; one factory previously reporting to the monthly questionnaire is undergoing liquidation, but several new factories are operating in the district. One manufacturer reports that he is cutting more shoes than ever before, and the retail

convention just closed is said to have put many orders on the books for the manufacturers.

The detailed position of reporting firms in this district, follows:

	PER CENT CHANGE	
	DECEMBER, 1921, COMPARED WITH	
	NOVEMBER, 1921	DECEMBER, 1920
Number of firms reporting....	27	20
Production.....	+ 2.2	+75.4
Stocks on hand*.....	+15.2	-8.7
Shipments.....	-10.6	+65.8
Unfilled orders at end of month**	+10.9	+112.7

* November comparison on 18 concerns and December, 1920, on 13 concerns.

** November comparison on 17 concerns and December 1920, on 9 concerns.

This table computed on basis of pairs.

CLOTHING AND TAILORING INDUSTRY

According to returns from eight wholesale clothing manufacturers, the volume of spring orders received at the close of December was 48 per cent ahead of the volume of such orders received a year ago at this time. Three of the firms which sent in comparisons of orders for orders show improvement in this respect amounting to 30 per cent. Figures received so far on cancellations of spring orders show that these amount to about 20 per cent of the total orders.

Production shows a decided increase for the month. The abnormally large increase shown in the comparison with December, 1920, is merely a reflection of the inactivity that existed at that time when many of the shops were closed down entirely. Shipments fell off greatly during the month and are lower than a year ago.

In the Tailors-to-the-Trade and the Cut-Trim-Make industries operations slowed down considerably, orders falling off slightly more than production and shipments. December conditions as represented by the firms responding to the clothing questionnaire follow:

	WHOLESALE CLOTHING	CUT-TRIM-MAKE
Number of firms reporting.....	8	
Orders for spring from opening of season to date of report compared with corresponding period of 1920.....	+47.8	
Number of suits made as compared with—		
(a) November, 1921.....	+34.1	
(b) December, 1920.....	+363.6	
Number of suits shipped as compared with—		
(a) November, 1921.....	-55.0	
(b) December, 1920.....	-10.6	
	TAILORS-TO-THE-TRADE	CUT-TRIM-MAKE
Number of firms reporting....	17	3
Orders for suits as compared with—		
(a) November, 1921.....	-32.9	-21.7
(b) December, 1920.....	+29.9	- 2.9
Number of suits made as compared with—		
(a) November, 1921.....	-29.0	-18.5
(b) December, 1920.....	+26.3	- 2.9
Number of suits shipped as compared with—		
(a) November, 1921.....	-28.8	-18.5
(b) December, 1920.....	+18.4	- 2.9

WOOL

The wool market during December continued very favorable to growers and dealers. Manufacturers bought freely and showed an inclination to stock up with raw wools. Orders do not average as large as in pre-war days but are of satisfactory volume.

Prices of practically all wool advanced rather stiffly in December and early January, even the coarser grades moving upward. This change is attributed more to the effect of duties on imported wool than to the sales of manufactured products. December orders of wool were about on a par with November and were as good or better than in December, 1920, when the industry was despondent and mills started buying for the first time in months.

Returns indicate that dealers' inventories of raw wool have been reduced in volume from those of 1920, but values are from 10 to 20 per cent higher.

BUILDING MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION

LUMBER

With the lumber production of 1920 approximating 33,798,000,000 feet, according to the Forest Service department, the 1921 estimate of 25,600,000,000 feet, made by the American Lumberman, places the probable production of 1921 at 75 per cent of the 1920 volume. This estimate is based on the percentage decrease in production experienced by the mills reporting to the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association, which mills produce approximately one-third of the total for the country. The cut, shipments, and orders for the year, as reported by these mills to their associations, are given in the accompanying table:

	CUT	SHIPMENTS	ORDERS
Southern Pine Association.....	3,567,610,851	3,725,720,305	3,709,603,214
West Coast Lumbermen's Association....	2,788,953,643	2,826,270,465	2,912,938,330
Western Pine Manufacturers Association	764,437,000	796,909,000	795,400,000
Total forward....	7,121,001,494	7,348,899,770	7,418,041,544

	CUT	SHIPMENTS	ORDERS
Carried forward..	7,121,001,494	7,348,899,770	7,418,041,544
California White & Sugar Pine Association.....	343,088,000	272,124,000	457,531,000
California Redwood Association.....	296,021,000	219,142,000	217,811,000
North Carolina Pine Association.....	353,368,265	342,776,026	325,483,250
Northern Hemlock & Hardwood Mfrs. Association.....	94,286,000	105,455,000	91,771,000
Total for 52 weeks*..	8,207,764,759	8,288,396,796	8,510,537,794

*Including only those mills which have made complete reports of all three items.

From this it appears that shipments have exceeded production by about 80 million feet or 1.0 per cent. This is very different from conditions at the close of 1920 when production showed an excess over shipments by 1,400 million feet, or 13.0 per cent; or at the close of 1919, when the excess was about 336 million feet or 3.2 per cent.

General reports also would indicate that stocks at the mills have been reduced. Advices from local dealers, retailers, and wholesalers state that inventories are less than a year ago, both in dollars and in volume. The shortage is especially in the better grades of lumber, and slight advances have been made in some of these during the last month.

Figures for lumber operations during the month of December show shipments slightly lower than the cut, by about 0.3 per cent, and orders below shipments by 5.9 per cent. For the first two weeks in January, shipments were 11.0 per cent, less than the cut, while orders, which lagged behind production by 14.0 per cent during the first week, rose again to within 2.0 per cent for the week ending January 14. While buying is not heavy, it is considered good for the season.

Figures on lumber operations, basing the comparisons on a ten-year average for the given month, are now available for November:

	IN THOUSANDS OF FEET B. M.					
	LUMBER PRODUCTION		LUMBER SHIPMENTS		LUMBER ORDERS	
November, 1921	812,725	107%	879,700	115%	946,675	123%
November, 1920	731,975	96%	602,775	79%	473,575	62%
Average, November, 1912-21	758,575	100%	763,325	100%	768,075	100%
October, 1921	893,950	118%	1,029,325	135%	1,164,700	151%

BRICK

The latest available report on the brick industry, containing information as of December 1, shows forty-three plants closed down, out of 101 reporting. The proportion was 35 to 102 the month previous. Production during this month fell off from 82 to 74.5 million brick, and shipments from 80 to 60.5 million. The proportion of orders on the books to stock on hand was 68.9 per cent, which is about on a level with the last three months.

A comparison with conditions of a year ago in this industry shows a definite improvement has taken place. In proportion to the number of firms reporting at that time, stocks on hand were approximately the same as they are now, but there was a very little demand, the orders on books amounting to only 41.5 per cent of the stock on hand. Prices at that time ranged from \$14 to \$28, while today the range is from \$10 to \$20 per thousand at the brickyard.

In the states of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin, twenty-eight firms report six plants closed. Orders on the books which a year ago were 44.0 per cent of the stocks, are now, and have been for several months, approximately 75.0 per cent. Prices here range from \$11 to \$17 per thousand brick at the yards, as against from \$16 to \$24 a year ago.

CEMENT

Reports from cement plants within the district for the month of December state that shipments from cement plants were less than normal, although December is always a light month, and that production has been curtailed more than usual.

BUILDING CONTRACTS AND PERMITS

Building expenditures of the country for the year 1921 are apparently less than those of 1920 by a slight percentage. This was to be expected both because of the general deflation in prices and wages that has been going on during the past year and because of the relative inactivity shown by this industry during the early months of 1921 as compared with those of 1920. Reports to the F. W. Dodge Company from twenty-seven states comprising the Northeastern quarter of the United States show a decrease of 8 per cent in the value of building contracts awarded. The valuation of contemplated projects, or projects for which permits have been issued, was about 3.5 per cent lower than in 1920.

Of the districts included in the F. W. Dodge Company returns, the New York district showed an increase of 7 per cent in the value of its building awards for the year; the Minneapolis district fell off by 8 per cent; Pittsburgh, by 9 per cent; Chicago, by 19 per cent; and the Boston district by 33 per cent. Changes since 1920 in the territory included within the Philadelphia district makes comparisons for this district uncertain.

The falling off in demand for industrial plants was the largest factor in lowering total valuations in building awards of 1921. If in the districts combined, this one class of construction work were left out of consideration entirely, the change from 1920 for all other classes of building would be a gain of 10.8 per cent. In the Boston district more than six-tenths of the aggregate loss for the year was due to this slump in industrial building; in the Chicago district it contributed about 96 per cent of such loss.

The building statistics for the month of December, 1921 covering the Chicago district and comprising all of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, and portions of Eastern Kansas and Nebraska are reported as follows by the F. W. Dodge Company:

CONTRACTS AWARDED	NO. OF PRO-JECTS	NEW FLOOR SPACE IN SQUARE FEET	VALUATION
Educational Buildings	34	496,800	2,971,100
Hospitals and Institutions	9	189,400	1,914,000
Industrial Buildings	72	658,200	3,020,000
Military and Naval Buildings	1	.....	5,000
Public Buildings	9	34,600	208,800
Public Works and Public Utilities	136	.....	12,320,300
Religious and Memorial Buildings	18	158,900	856,000
*Residential Buildings	806	3,234,100	16,382,400
Social and Recreational Buildings	22	329,500	1,934,000
Total	1,296	.....	\$45,895,100

*970 Buildings.

Considering the changes that have taken place both in costs of materials and of labor during the past year, the actual volume of construction during 1921 was in excess of that of 1920. Using the index for wholesale prices as published by the United States Department of Labor, the average cost of building materials for the year 1920 was 308. While as yet no average for the year 1921 is available, an estimate from monthly figures will show that this cannot greatly exceed 200. Thus, building materials in 1921 cost about two-thirds of 1920

prices. If, as had been fairly well established by government investigations, at least 40 per cent of the total cost of construction is due to the cost of material, this difference in prices would mean a corresponding gain in volume of 20 per cent. Therefore, the total building expenditures of 1921, amounting to 92 per cent of those of 1920, will indicate a volume of 110.4 per cent in comparison with 1920 by merely taking this one factor into consideration. If the reductions that have been made in the cost of labor in various parts of the country were considered also, the showing would be still more favorable.

In spite of the favorable showing made in comparison with the year 1920, the extent of building has been entirely inadequate to satisfy the existing demand.

MERCHANDISING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT

WHOLESALE TRADE

Wholesale trade for the year 1921 was considerably below 1920 in dollar sales, with decreases averaging about 23 per cent for thirteen shoe firms, 30 per cent for twelve dry goods firms, 33 per cent for twenty-two hardware firms, and 37 per cent for thirty-four grocery firms.

Toward the end of the year sales more closely approached the 1920 mark, as is shown by the December returns. Gains were made in the case of shoes, automobile accessories, and tires, and the differences in other commodities are all less than for the year as a whole. Tonnage reports for the month, moreover, would either equal or exceed those a year ago, since the average decline in selling price for each group is larger than the difference in sales. Decreases from November sales were to be expected for December is a comparatively slow month for wholesalers.

Returns from drug dealers are perhaps most encouraging, with sales very nearly the same as 1920, and 95 per cent of those of last month. Although dry goods sales decreased over 35 per cent from November, several dealers have called attention to especially active trade starting the week after Christmas in preparation for January retail sales.

Comparison of stocks with those on hand a year ago range from 25 to 60 per cent less for all groups, except dry goods, but increases over November are noted for dry goods and shoes.

With few exceptions all dealers reporting collections in dollar amounts show them larger than sales for the month.

Additional price reductions are being predicted. The opinion seems general among hardware firms that their prices will continue to fall, and that manufactured goods should be reduced accordingly. New price quotations likewise indicate a downward trend for wholesale crockery. Grocery and cereal dealers also report cuts with rare mention of advances.

Reported total sales of pianos during 1921 show large decreases as compared with last year both on unit and dollar bases. The gain in this year's holiday trade over December, 1920, might have been even more

The factors preventing full operation in building construction, however, are complicated, so long as the public questions the desirability of building as an investment and is doubtful of the policies supported by the labor unions. High taxes, regulatory rent legislation, an adverse attitude on the part of the banks, and the unsettled labor situation are all recognized as counteracting influences.

The closing month of 1921 shows an unusual amount of activity for the season, exceeding November by 3 per cent. One per cent of this total gain is contributed by the Chicago district. In comparison with building a year ago, increase for the Chicago district amounts to 37 per cent, and for all the districts, to almost 100 per cent.

marked, but for prospective removal, January 1, of the tax on musical instruments.

Profits for the year in watches are much lower than in 1920, because of smaller sales, in volume as well as in dollars, and because of high production costs. Other jewelry business is also reported as below the 1920 sales.

A summary of returns in percentages follows:

	GRO- CER- IES	HARD- WARE	DRY GOODS	AUTO SHOES	ACCES- ORIES	AUTO DRUGS	TIRES
Number of firms reporting.	37	21	13	12	9	11	7
Net Sales—							
Change December, 1921, from December, 1920.....	-16.3	-8.1	-7.0	+19.8	+0.5	-1.8	+125.4
Net Sales—							
Change December, 1921, from November, 1921.....	-12.1	-17.6	-35.2	-40.5	-12.1	-5.0	+91.1
Stocks—Change December, 1921, from December, 1920..	-38.4	-25.6	-9.2	-39.5	-30.2	-25.0	-59.6
Stocks—Change December, 1921, from November, 1921..	-10.4	-3.2	+4.0	+0.5	-1.5	-7.2	-18.1
Estimated value per unit of sale—Change December, 1921, from December, 1920..	-28.3	-29.3	-40.0	-22.2	-22.6	-16.0	-32.1

RETAIL TRADE

Among many department store dealers there is a general impression that conditions are improving, and December returns from fifty firms support this belief. Holiday trade was large, and, according to several reports, marked by small individual purchases and by the selection of practical gifts.

Stocks have been reduced materially during the month, and average for the district 14.5 per cent less than those on hand at the beginning of the year. The ratio of expenses to sales is not only lower than last month, but closer to the corresponding 1920 figure.

A summary of returns in percentages follows:

	OTHER ENTIRE			
	CHICAGO	DETROIT	CITIES	DISTRICT
Number of firms reporting	15	5	30	50
Net Sales—Change December, 1921, from December, 1920. . . .	- 7.1	- 3.5	-11.4	- 7.4
Net Sales—Change December, 1921, from November, 1921. . . .	+42.1	+34.3	+42.5	+38.9
Net Sales—Change July 1 to December 31, 1921, from same period, 1920.	-11.0	-13.9	-14.5	-13.6
Stocks—Change December, 1921, from December, 1920.	- 6.4	-20.7	-10.4	-14.5
Stocks—Change December, 1921, from November, 1921.	-22.5	-18.6	-15.0	-17.3
Turnover rate—July to December (times per year)	3.6	3.4	2.6	3.1
Percentage Operating Expense and Overhead to Gross Sales for December, 1921.	22.6	21.4	24.1	23.4
December, 1920.	23.6	22.8	20.8	21.7

Nearly 40 per cent gain over November sales was made for the entire district. Although all groups report less sales than for December, 1920, the differences between the two years are smaller than those noted last month, and that for the district as a whole is the lowest in several months.

These decreases, moreover, are of dollar amounts, and, being smaller than the average price reduction, indicate both for month and period a larger volume of goods sold than last year.

MAIL ORDER TRADE

Chicago's two largest mail order houses show over 30 per cent decrease in total net sales for 1921 as compared with 1920. Smaller differences are noted between December, 1921, and December, 1920 in total sales for both firms; one reports a similar decrease in business within this district. These comparisons, however, are based on dollar amounts, and indicate differences in volume of goods sold only when price reductions are taken into consideration.

TRANSPORTATION CONDITIONS

Revenue freight carloadings throughout the United States and in the Central Western District for the last week of 1921 were the lowest for the entire year. Carloadings for the United States were 20.3 per cent below those of the previous week, which had been increased somewhat by Christmas trade, and 11.8 per cent lower than those of the corresponding week of 1920, while decreases in the Central Western District were similar.

When compared with the week ending December 24, live stock was the only commodity to show increase both in the United States and the Central Western District; in the United States, carloadings of grain and grain products, live stock, and merchandise showed a slight increase when compared with the corresponding week of 1920; while in the Central Western District, shipments of live stock and merchandise amounted to more than for the week ending December 31, 1920.

The freight car surplus for the week ending December 31 was 470,516, classified as: box cars, 191,907; coal cars, 221,614; miscellaneous, 57,195; compared with a total of 213,523 cars for the corresponding week of the previous month. The number of bad order cars on December 15 was 308,556 or 13.5 per cent of all

A comparison of sales follows:

	CHANGE DECEMBER 1921 FROM NOVEMBER 1921		CHANGE 1921 FROM 1920
	DECEMBER 1921	DECEMBER 1920	
Sears, Roebuck and Company	+ 5.5%	-10.9%	-30.1%
Montgomery Ward and Company	- 2.1%	-26.1%	-32.4%
Total.	+ 3.1%	-16.1%	-30.8%

FOREIGN COMMERCE AND STOCK OF GOLD

Imports and exports of merchandise for 1921 very clearly indicate the general trend of business during the past year. Comparison with 1920 shows a decrease of 53.1 per cent in imports and 45.5 per cent in exports. Imports for December, however, show a continued increase over those of the preceding months. Detailed figures as given by the Department of Commerce follow:

	IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS				
	DECEMBER 1921	NOVEMBER 1921	DECEMBER 1920	YEAR 1921	YEAR 1920
Imports.	236,800	211,300	266,057	2,508,452	5,278,481
Exports.	295,900	295,500	720,287	4,484,767	8,228,016
Excess of Exports.	59,100	84,200	454,230	1,976,315	2,949,534

Imports of gold to the United States during December were considerably less than those during November, while exports increased slightly. Detailed figures as given by the Department of Commerce follow:

	IN THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS				
	DECEMBER 1921	NOVEMBER 1921	DECEMBER 1920	YEAR 1921	YEAR 1920
Imports.	31,685	51,937	44,660	691,267	417,068
Exports.	1,950	607	17,058	23,680	322,091
Excess of Imports.	29,735	51,330	27,602	667,587	94,977

This brought the total stock of gold available for money up to \$3,574,859,831, on January 1, as compared with \$2,788,940,720, the year previous.

freight cars, compared with 333,616 cars or 14.4 per cent on November 15.

Comparative statistics for the Central Western District follow:

	CARLOADINGS FOR WEEK ENDING DEC. 31, 1921	PER CENT CHANGE FROM WEEK ENDING DEC. 24, 1921	PER CENT CHANGE FROM WEEK ENDING DEC. 31, 1920
	Grain and Grain Products.	8,620	-11.8	- 8.2
Live Stock.	8,522	+ 2.0	+ 8.1
Coal.	16,770	- 8.0	-21.5
Merchandise.	24,616	-16.2	+ 9.8
Miscellaneous.	25,760	-19.8	-20.2
Total.	84,288	-13.9	- 9.7

Carload shipments of apples and vegetables for the United States compare as follows:

	APPLES	ONIONS	POTATOES WHITE	CABBAGE	MIXED VEGETABLES
	Season ending December 31, 1921	68,684	16,645	146,757	25,716	14,909
Season ending December 31, 1920	86,168	22,273	131,361	28,345	12,879